



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AN: D800383-0102

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PAGE 01 KABUL 02326 01 OF 02 111418Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 10-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-07 H-01 INR-10 -03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
SMS-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 SY-05 CCS-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /104

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C 111238Z AUG 80

**FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1967**

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0604

AMEMBASSY Dacca

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHENGUN, GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR

REVIEWED BY *Lfm Kelley*

DATE 8/14/89

() RELEASE

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TS authority to:

() CANCELLED

() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2326

KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/11/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) CRM

TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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PAGE 02 KABUL 02326 01 OF 02 111418Z

REF: KABUL 2303 ✓

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1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: KABUL IS BOTH TIRED AND EXPECTANT AT THE END OF RAMAZAN AND THE EVE OF A FOUR-DAY ID HOLIDAY. THE CITY HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET FOR THE PAST WEEK, BUT GAS AND FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE CONTINUED, AS HAVE SPOT SEARCHES OF PEOPLE AND VEHICLES AND THE SLIGHTLY ENHANCED SECURITY STATUS OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES. THERE ARE VAGUE RUMORS OF IMPENDING TROUBLES DURING THE ID HOLIDAYS AND PAINTED ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS HAVE APPEARED ON KABUL WALLS. MAJOR RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON REGIME INSTALLATIONS OCCURRED SOUTH OF KABUL IN LOGAR ON AUGUST 7, PROVOKING STRONG RETALIATION. THERE ARE FRESH STORIES OF FIGHTING NEAR GHAZNI, IN HERAT AND ELSEWHERE. SEVERAL MORE AMERICANS HAVE DEPARTED, LEAVING THE TOTAL IN COUNTRY AT LESS THAN 40. END SUMMARY.

3. CITIZENS OF KABUL, FATIGUED BY THE MONTH-LONG RAMAZAN FASTING, HAVE GONE ON A BUYING SPREE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF ID-UL-FITR, WHICH THE REGIME HAS EXTENDED INTO A FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY STARTING AUGUST 12. (THE EMBASSY WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 12, BUT WILL REOPEN AUGUST 13.) RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN THE CITY HAS DIMINISHED AND SMALL-ARMS GUNFIRE HAS BEEN HEARD ONLY RARELY DURING THE PAST FOUR DAYS AND NIGHTS. SOVIET AIR AND CONVOY ACTIVITY HAS ALSO REMAINED RELATIVELY LIGHT, EXCEPT FOR HEAVY TRANSPORT FLIGHTS.

4. GASOLINE AND FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE CONTINUED, WITH LONG LINES AT SERVICE STATIONS AND DRA FOOD SHOPS. THOSE AT GAS STATIONS WERE SOMEWHAT REDUCED ON AUGUST 11, PERHAPS IN REACTION TO A DRA ANNOUNCEMENT THAT, IN LIGHT OF A NEW
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PAGE 03 KABUL 02326 01 OF 02 111418Z

DRA/USSR CONTRACT, UNLIMITED SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE, KEROSENE AND DIESEL FUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. (THE REGIME ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SCHOOLS WOULD REOPEN ON AUGUST 16, DESPITE RUMORS THAT THEY WOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL 1981.)

5. STANDARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON THE REGIME DURING ID ARE CIRCULATING IN KABUL, BUT NO SPECIFIC DATES OR PLANS HAVE BEEN HEARD. AFGHAN AND SOVIET SECURITY FORCES REMAIN ALERT GUARDING SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS AS

SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT TOP KHALQIS ARE ABOUT TO BE

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CLUSTED, OR EXILED. SPOT SEARCHES OF INDIVIDUALS AND VEHICLES HAVE INTENSIFIED AND SOVIET ROADBLOCKS ON MAJOR ARTERIES HAVE NOT BEEN REDUCED. ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS APPEARED ON WALLS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF KABUL ON AUGUST 9, BUT WORKERS HAD REMOVED MOST OF THEM BY AUGUST 11. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THE APPEARANCE OF FLYERS WITH KING ZAHIR'S PHOTOGRAPH ON AUGUST 7 IN PARWAN, LOGAR AND KABUL PROVINCES.

6. SEVERAL CONTACTS TOLD EMBSCFFS ABOUT RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON THE VILLAGE OF MOHAMMAD ZAYEE ON THE LOGAR ROAD NEAR THE TOWN OF SHER WAKI (ABOUT 10 KM SOUTH OF KABUL) ON AUGUST 7. INSURGENTS REPORTEDLY COMPLETED AN EFFORT BEGUN WEEKS AGO BY BURNING DOWN WHAT WAS LEFT OF A HOSPITAL THERE AND THEN WENT ON TO BURN A SCHOOL AND BLOW UP THE LOCAL ELECTRIC POWER STATION. SOVIET HELICOPTERS AND JETS APPARENTLY RETALIATED, SEVERELY DAMAGING LARGE PARTS OF THE VILLAGE AND SHER WAKI ITSELF, LEAVING AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE DEAD.

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INFO ANEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY IS AMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON.

AMEMBASSY NEW DE.

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

7. A RELIABLE AMCHIT SOURCE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN HERAT ON AUGUST 6 AS "CHAOTIC," WITH ROVING BANDS OF ARMED MEN PRESSURING INHABITANTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD, SHELTER AND MONEY. HE SAID THAT NEITHER AFGHAN NOR SOVIET TROOPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET A GRIP ON THE CITY, AND THAT FIGHTING

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KABJL 02326 02 OF 02 111342Z

WAS GOING ON IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CITY DAY AND NIGHT FOR
OVER A WEEK. LESS RELIABLE REPORTS AFTER AUGUST 6 INDI-

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DATE THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED MEASURABLY. MEAN-
WHILE, STORIES OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN GHAZNI AND WARDAK
PROVINCES ON AUGUST 9 AND 10 HAVE REACHED KABUL. ONE INFOR-
MANT CLAIMED THAT THE NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF WARDAK WAS
SHOT AND KILLED BY INSURGENTS IN CHAK ON AUGUST 8. (OTHER
VERSIONS INDICATE THAT THE DECEASED MAY HAVE BEEN THE NEW
GOVERNOR OF CHAK.) LESS RELIABLE REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE
PANJSHIR VALLEY AND NEAR BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE HAVE ALSO BEEN
RECEIVED.

8. ONE AMERICAN REPORTER (STUART AUERSBACH OF THE WASHINGTON
POST) MANAGED TO SLIP UNDETECTED BY THE REGIME INTO AND OUT
OF THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK. AT LEAST SIX RESIDENT AMERICANS LEFT
DURING THE WEEK, DROPPING THE KNOWN TOTAL TO 38. ANOTHER
TWO LONG-TIME RESIDENTS PLAN TO SLIP AWAY VIA PAKISTAN IN
THE NEXT FEW DAYS. GRIFFIN

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